

Message Text

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SUBJ: GA PROCEDURAL REFORM -- VAIL GROUP

REF: USUN 1143

SUMMARY: INFORMAL VAIL GROUP MET 22 APRIL TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF HOW THE GENERAL COMMITTEE MIGHT BETTER PREPARE THE AGENDA AND WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. A SCHEMATIC ANALYSIS OF VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES, A LEGAL OFFICE OPINION ON PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS, AND MINUTES OF LAST MEETING WERE DISTRIBUTED (COPIES POUCHED VIRGINIA HARTLEY). GROUP ASKED CHAIRMAN ORTIZ DE ROZAS TO PREPARE A PAPER RECOMMENDING THAT 30TH GA SHOULD AT CLOSING MEETING ENTRUST ITS GENERAL COMMITTEE WITH TASK OF PREPARING RECOMMENDATIONS ON AGENDA AND MORE EFFICIENT WORK FOR CONSIDERATION BY 31ST GA. VAIL GROUP PARTICIPANTS WOULD TRANSMIT THIS PAPER TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS AND ORTIZ WOULD GIVE IT TO REGIONAL GROUPS. END SUMMARY.

1. DETAILS. PARTICIPANTS IN 5TH MEETING INCLUDED US; AUSTRIA, FRANCE, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, AND SWEDEN; USSR AND POLAND; INDIA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND YUGOSLAVIA. FOREGOING WERE REPRESENTED BY PERMREPS OR DEPUTY PERMREPS. HIGHLY INFORMAL, UNINSTRUCTED FIRST-NAME CHARACTER OF DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED AS AT EARLIER MEETINGS.

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2. ORTIZ WISELY AVOIDED ANSWERING DIRECTLY OPENING ITALIAN

QUESTION WHETHER PURPOSE OF GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING INTERSESSIONALLY WAS TO BETTER PREPARE THE AGENDA OR TO UNDERTAKE "A MORE SUBSTANTIVE ROLE". HE SAID VAIL DISCUSSIONS HAD RECOGNIZED THAT TRADITIONAL COMPRESSED TWO-SITTING MEETINGS OF GENERAL COMMITTEE DURING FIRST WEEK OF A NEW GA SESSION MADE IMPRACTICAL SIGNIFICANT SURGERY ON THE AGENDA AND WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY; IN FACT THE GENERAL COMMITTEE USUALLY MERELY APPROVED INSCRIPTION OF THE ITEMS ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA. ACCORDINGLY, MAIN PURPOSES TO BE SERVED BY GENERAL COMMITTEE'S MEETING EARLIER WOULD BE STREAM-LINING AGENDA BY RECOMMENDING POSTPONING ITEMS, COMBINING ITEMS SO AS TO AVOID REPETITION, POSSIBLY STIMULATING EARLIER SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS, AND ENCOURAGING COMMENCEMENT OF INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON IMPORTANT ITEMS LOOKING TOWARDS WIDER AGREEMENT. ARGENTINE DEP PRAT GAY DESCRIBED MAIN IDEA AS MAKING POSSIBLE "A MORE CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF THE AGENDA" (USING "AGENDA" IN A LARGER SENSE). HE FAVORED CONSTITUTING THE NEW GENERAL COMMITTEE IN DECEMBER SO AS TO ENCOURAGE MAIN COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH ITEMS LIKELY TO BE ALLOCATED TO THEM AND STIMULATE THEIR LEADERSHIP EFFORTS. SWEDEN CONCURRED.

3. T AND T AMB SEIGNORET NOTED THAT ANY MAJOR CHANGE IN GA PROCEDURES MIGHT AROUSE A CERTAIN RESISTENCE AND SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE BETTER TO PROCEED LESS FORMALLY; 30TH GA COULD INVITE ITS OUTGOING GENERAL COMMITTEE TO ANALYZE THE 31 ST SESSION'S LIKELY AGENDA AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO 31ST GA. AMB BENNETT SUPPORTED T AND T AND SUGGESTED A POSSIBLE SCENARIO UNDER WHICH, AT CLOSING MEETING OF 30TH SESSION, THE PRESIDENT COULD SAY HE HAD CONSULTED WITH THE REGIONAL GROUPS AND UNDERSTOOD THE ASSEMBLY WAS WILLING TO HAVE THE EXISTING GENERAL COMMITTEE MEET AT SOME TIME EARLY IN 1976 IN ORDER, IN THE LIGHT OF ITS EXPERIENCE, TO PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 31ST GA AND THE GENERAL COMMITTEE WHICH THE 31 ST GA WILL CONSTITUTE; THAT, THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, IT WOULD BE SO DECIDED. A RESOLUTION WOULD NOT SEEM TO BE NECESSARY. USSR MINISTER OVINNIKOV SUPPORTED THIS "MORE MODEST" APPROACH. ORTIZ SAID NO SEPARATE ITEM WOULD BE NEEDED ON 30TH GA AGENDA; RATHER, PRESIDENT COULD DEAL WITH THIS UNDER AGENDA ITEM CONCERNING CLOSURE OF THE 30TH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SESSION.

4. AUSTRIAN AMB JANKOWITSCH THOUGHT AN APPROACH OF THIS CHARACTER DESIRABLE SINCE IT WOULD MAKE USE OF EXISTING MACHINERY. HE COMMENTED THAT USE OF EXISTING ORGANS AND PROCEDURES WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO PRODUCE RESULTS COMMONLY DESIRED BY VAIL PARTICIPANTS.

5. PARTICIPANTS AGREED, ON OVINNIKOV SUGGESTION, THAT ORTIZ SHOULD PREPARE A PAPER OUTLINING THE PURPOSES OF THE PROPOSAL AND ITS MAIN CHARACTERISTICS FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT VAIL MEETING,
6 MAY. PAPER WILL THEN BE TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL GROUPS. COMMENT: GAZARIAN OF SECRETARIAT WILL DRAW UP A DRAFT FOR REVIEW BY ORTIZ; MISOFF WILL OFFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.
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